

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9308

INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BRTA, UK, NH

SUBJECT: NEW HEBRIDES LAND DEALS

REF: (A) LONDON 3169, (B) LONDON 3053, (C) STATE 47483

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM J. W. NICHOLAS, HEAD OF PACIFIC DEPARTMENT TERRITORIES DEPARTMENT IN FCO, IN RESPONSE TO OUR LETTER (REF A) REGARDING APPOINTMENT FOR AMALGAMATED LAND COMPANY REPS TO MEET WITH ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE LARMOUR. NICHOLAS APOLOGIZED FOR DELAY IN REPLY, SAYING, "THE DELAY AROSE BECAUSE SENATOR INOUE HAD SIMULTANEOUSLY ADDRESSED AN IDENTICAL REQUEST TO THE PRIME MINISTER." NICHOLSON GOES ON TO SAY THAT WHILE MEETING WITH AMALGAMATED REPRESENTATIVES NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE (SEE PARA 3 BELOW), LARMOUR WOULD BE READY TO MEET SENATOR HIMSELF OR MEMBER OF HIS STAFF AND EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME.

2. NICHOLAS CONCLUDES HIS LETTER WITH REQUEST THAT WE ASK DEPARTMENT "TO REMIND SENATOR INOUE OF THE SUGGESTION MADE IN AN EARLIER LETTER FROM OUR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN WASHINGTON THAT THE SENATOR SHOULD LET US HAVE ANY DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL THAT HE FEELS MIGHT PROVIDE FURTHER BACKGROUND TO THE MATTERS HE WISHES TO

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RAISE AT SUCH A MEETING."

3. NICHOLAS PROVIDED US WITH COPY OF TELEGRAM SENT BY PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SENATOR INOUE ON MARCH 28. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:

YOUR KIND MESSAGE CONVEYING YOUR GOOD WISHES ON HIS APPOINTMENT.

"AS REGARDS YOUR REQUEST FOR A MEETING AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING U.S. CITIZENS FROM HAWAII OVER LAND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ANGLO-FRENCH CONDOMINIUM OF THE NEW HEBRIDES, THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE HAVE RECEIVED A SIMILAR REQUEST FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY IN LONDON, ON BEHALF OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. SINCE CERTAIN LAND DEVELOPERS HAVE ISSUED WRITS AGAINST SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE BRITISH NATIONAL SERVICE IN THE CONDOMINIUM, A FURTHER MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEVELOPERS IS NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE. BUT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN FOR THE U.S. CITIZENS WHO HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER, AND WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE READY TO MEET YOU, OR A MEMBER OF YOUR STAFF, TOGETHER WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WILL SHORTLY BE REPLYING TO THE U.S. EMBASSY'S REQUEST, AND I SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT FOR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING TO BE DEALT WITH THROUGH THAT CHANNEL."

COMMENT: IF SENATOR INOUE WISHES TO UNDERTAKE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS IN NEAR FUTURE, HE MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER RAISING MATTER WITH BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON. IF SO, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF HIS PLANS, AND RESULTS OF CONVERSATION. ON OTHER HAND, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT SUGGESTED BY NICHOLAS, IF SENATOR'S OFFICE SO DESIRES.

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